

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I am confused. I thought the Republicans were trying to cut taxes. So why are they raising taxes, raising taxes on 2 million Federal employees? To finance their tax bill they have to raise \$12 billion. So what do they do? They ask Federal employees to increase their contribution for their retirement program by 2.5 percent.

What does that mean? It means that for the average Federal employee making about \$30,000, it is a tax of \$750 a year. Why?

The program is not insolvent. The program is not overly generous. People in the private sector do not pay anything toward their retirement programs.

So it works out like this: In order to get a \$500-per-child tax credit, Federal employees, whether they have a child or not, have to pay a tax of \$750. It does not make sense.

Moreover, today's Washington Post points out that fully 50 percent of the tax benefits to go to the top 10 percent of Americans, not the Ma and Pa stores and not your average American citizen, and fully 10 percent of these so-called tax benefits for the middle class go to the top 1 percent of wage earners in this country. There is something wrong with this tax bill.

On the subject of Federal employees, before my Republican colleagues vote, I urge them to check to see the number of Federal employees in their district, because you are raising taxes on a lot of very good, average American citizens.

THE BIG SPENDERS

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have been sitting here patiently waiting to take up the rule on the tax cut package. I have been looking through the list of speakers from the Democrat side of the aisle. They all talk about how they cannot vote for this tax cut because they want to reduce the deficit.

I am just going through a list from the National Taxpayers Union from this past year. Almost every one of these speakers appears on this list as the biggest spenders in the Congress. Not only do they appear on this year's list, but last year's list and the year before that and the year before that.

Where is the credibility for those that say they want to stand up here and vote to reduce the deficit?

I am going to make a challenge to you, every one of you that have stood up here and spoken against this tax cut because you want to lower the deficit. We will have a reconciliation bill coming to the floor. I kept a careful list, and I am going to ask every one of you to vote for balancing the budget, which will come later this year. Good luck.

STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we really are about fairness here. I would suggest to our former speaker that we sometimes want to see that fairness go both ways.

Mr. Speaker, under the fictitious banner of a fair tax bill, there is a relentless and unswerving drive that has been launched by the Republican party against the average working American.

This drive is designed to give tax relief to the wealthy Americans who earn more than \$200,000 and more. It is a crusade that is oblivious to the harm that is caused in its wake. They plan to give \$277 billion in spending cuts. The bulk of these spending cuts will come from reducing discretionary spending and the welfare reform, according to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH]. They also plan \$190 billion in tax cuts, the bulk of which will go to the richest citizens in America.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, what you have to do is add the cuts for poor people and the average working American and give those tax cuts to the richest persons in America.

The difference in this equation is a loss to low- and middle-income Americans. To mollify people with money, they are causing pain to those who have very little money who are the working Americans in society.

TIME FOR THE PEOPLE BACK HOME

(Mr. HANCOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, this argument that we are into is getting to where if it was not so serious, it would be amusing. We are talking about voting to reduce the deficit. We are talking about concentrating on the budget of the Federal Government.

Do you not think it is time that we started talking about the people back home and doing something to help them balance their budgets? Who do we represent up here? The U.S. Government or the people that elected us?

I am going to concentrate my vote on doing everything I can to give the people tax breaks back home and reduce the overall size of the Federal Government rather than merely talking about, we cannot have tax breaks until we stop the spending.

We tried that once. We are going to get the tax breaks, and we are going to stop the spending. And we are going to start representing the people that elected us instead of saying, we are the Government. We are not the Government. The people sent us up here to represent them.

THE NATIONAL TAXPAYERS UNION

(Mr. COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I only wanted to highlight an issue that was raised by the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON]. The National Taxpayers Union, I think it was, that he cited, put into the RECORD.

I would hope that everyone would understand that that organization does not have a whole lot of credibility when it comes to ranking Members, because what they did when the Senate was in control of the Republicans a few years back, they had a different criteria for their votes on appropriations bills than they did for the Democrats over on the House side.

And I just wanted everyone to be aware that that is hardly the criteria we ought to be or a standard we ought to be utilizing. They pick and choose the bad votes such as, did you vote for the interior appropriations bill, yes or no? If you did, boy, that is a bad vote.

You are going to find, if they used the same standards on us, as Democrats when we were in charge and had to pass legislation and were governing, as they will use on you, I think you will find that you have a whole lot of real bad votes with that organization.

We will see if they are going to have any credibility left at the end of this session in ranking you poorly because you vote for an appropriations bill.

TAX CUTS AND THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in response to my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE], who quoted John Kennedy, I would like to remind him, I reminded him privately, I will remind him publicly, at the time John Kennedy said that, the Nation's annual operating deficit was \$10 billion a year. Now it is \$200 billion a year. At the time that John Kennedy said that, our Nation's total debt was about \$500 billion. Today it is almost \$5 trillion.

Now, we have a very strange situation with the tax cutters who, as my good friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], pointed out, should be for deficit reduction. I am one of those people, Mr. SOLOMON. I am for deficit reduction.

So I am going to say that whatever we save go toward the deficit, because it does not make any sense at all for this Nation to borrow \$200 billion this year and pay the interest on it for the next 10 years just to give people a very miniscule break today and to give the wealthiest Americans, whose maximum tax rate went from 66 percent in 1981 down to about 35 percent today, an even bigger tax break.